

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is earnestly requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 – 10 have been amended as shown above. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-4 and 9 were objected to because of certain informalities. These informalities have been corrected as shown above, and it is submitted that the objections to these claims have been overcome.

Claims 1 - 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grewe et al., U.S. Patent 5,670,730 (hereinafter referred to as "Grewe"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Grewe teaches a system in which music files are provided with individual headers 36 that include category, artist, and track address information (Fig. 3, col. 3 from ln. 45). The track address information is used to identify the start and/or end location of the file, so that the music player can locate and play the file.

A global header 22 and a table of contents 34 are maintained separate from the individual music files. The global header 22 includes general information about the selections on the chip and how they were encoded, for example the distributor of the music and the bit rate at which the tracks have been encoded. Track selections are listed as part of the table of contents by individual headers 36. (Col. 3 ln. 23, Fig. 3). That is, as can be seen from the description and in particular Figs. 3 and 4, the "table of contents" is nothing more than a sequential list of the individual headers, appended one after another to the table of contents. The table of contents does not appear to be hierarchical¹ at all.

¹ Based on Applicants' understanding, Grewe's use of the term "hierarchical" appears to refer only to the predefined format of the individual headers and/or the global header.

Although it is not clearly stated how this is accomplished, it is a goal of Grewe to permit selection of tracks by category or artist. From the description of Grewe's "table of contents", it appears that such selections can only be made by searching serially through the sequential list of headers in the "table of contents" to identify the individual tracks meeting the criteria. While this may be an acceptable solution for small numbers of tracks, this method is going to be cumbersome when large numbers of tracks are involved or when the database is updated frequently.

Unlike Grewe, the current invention provides a hierarchical definition file that has a tree structure, including category names that name the branch under which tracks are listed. For each track, each branch in which the track belongs is determined, and the track is filed in the appropriate location in the branch. These limitations, found in claims 1 and 10, are not taught or suggested by Grewe.

Similarly, Grewe does not teach or suggest the method of claim 4. While Grewe does mention that music can be selected using the information in the headers (col. 3 lns. 50 – 57), there is little disclosure as to how this is accomplished. Similarly, while Grewe does mention that information can be presented on a display, there is no mention of displaying categories, subcategories and tracks in an hierarchical order for selection as defined in claim 4. Grewe does not even appear to contemplate subcategories at all. In particular, Grewe does not teach or disclose any of the specific displaying or utilizing steps in claim 4.

Similarly, Grewe does not teach the limitations of claims 6 and 9. The filing system of Grewe merely appends each individual header to the last individual header in the "table of contents," which thus is merely an elementary list of track headers (See Figs. 3 and 4). Grewe does not teach automatically filing a track by category name under each selected category, to form a hierarchical track filing scheme, as claimed in claims 6 and 9.

As set forth in MPEP 2131, to anticipate a claim the reference must teach every element of the claim. Since, as discussed above, every element of independent claims 1, 6, 9 and 10 is not taught by Grewe, Applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by Grewe and are thus allowable.

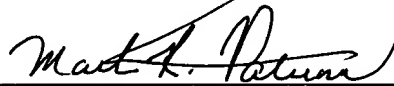
Further, it is submitted that claims 2 -4, 7 and 8 are allowable as being dependent on allowable base claims.

From at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 - 4 and 6 -10 are allowable and allowance of the application is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with this communication, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted

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